IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to have the status and content indicated in the following listing of claims, wherein any cancellation of claims is made *without prejudice*.

1. (currently amended) Composition suitable as a substitute for plasma comprising a solution of saline in a physiologically acceptable concentration and a protein having a colloid osmotic function wherein the protein having a colloid osmotic function is a recombinant gelatin-like protein with a molecular weight of from at least 10,000 Daltons to at most 50,000 Daltons, ~~and~~ has an isoelectric point of less than 8 and is not crosslinked by chemical modification.

2. (currently amended) Composition suitable as a substitute for plasma comprising a solution of saline in a physiologically acceptable concentration and a protein having a colloid osmotic function wherein the protein having a colloid osmotic function is a dimer or a trimer or a tetramer of a recombinant gelatin-like protein monomer, the protein monomer having ~~with~~ a molecular weight of from at least 10,000 Daltons to at most 50,000 Daltons and has an isoelectric point of less than 8 and wherein said monomer, dimer, trimer or tetramer is not crosslinked by chemical modification.

3. (currently amended) Composition according to claim 1wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein monomer has a molecular weight of from at least 15,000 Daltons to at most 25,000 Daltons.

4. (currently amended) Composition according to claim 1 wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein has an isoelectric point of from at least 4 to at most 7.

5. (original) Composition according to claim 1 wherein the number of negatively charged amino acid residues at pH 8 in the recombinant gelatin-like protein, minus the

number of positively charged amino acid residues at pH 8 in the recombinant gelatin-like protein is at least 2, preferably at least 3.

6. (currently amended) Composition according to claim 1 wherein said recombinant gelatin-like protein is a human gelatin-like protein.

7. (original) Composition according to claim 1 wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein with an isoelectric point of less than 8 is obtained by replacement of glutamine by glutamic acid and/or replacement of asparagine by aspartic acid.

8. (original) Composition according to claim 1 wherein said recombinant gelatin-like protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 4.

9. (currently amended) A process for ~~using~~ providing a plasma expander comprising utilizing a recombinant gelatin-like protein with a molecular weight of from at least 10,000 Daltons to at most 50,000 Daltons ~~as plasma expander~~, said recombinant gelatin-like protein having an isoelectric point of less than 8 wherein said protein is not crosslinked by chemical modification.

10. (currently amended) A process for ~~using~~ providing a plasma expander comprising utilizing a dimer or a trimer or a tetramer of a recombinant gelatin-like protein with a molecular weight from at least 10,000 Daltons to at most 50,000 Daltons ~~as plasma expander~~, said recombinant gelatin-like protein having an isoelectric point of less than 8 and wherein said protein is not crosslinked by chemical modification.

11. (currently amended) The process according to claim 9 ~~in which~~ wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein has a molecular weight of from at least 15,000 Daltons to at most 25,000 Daltons.

12. (currently amended) The process according to claim 9 ~~in which~~ wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein has an isoelectric point of from at least 4 to at most 7.

13. (currently amended) The process according to claim 9 wherein the number of negatively charged amino acid residues at pH 8 in the recombinant gelatin-like protein minus the number of positively charged amino acid residues at pH 8 in the recombinant gelatin-like protein is at least 2, ~~preferably~~ optionally at least 3.

14. (currently amended) The process according to claim 9 ~~in which~~ wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein is a human gelatin-like protein.

15. (currently amended) The process according to claim 9 ~~in which~~ wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 4.

16. (new) Composition according to claim 1 wherein said recombinant gelatin-like protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 3.

17. (new) Composition according to claim 2 wherein said recombinant gelatin-like protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 3.

18. (new) Composition according to claim 2 wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein monomer has a molecular weight of from at least 15,000 Daltons to at most 25,000 Daltons.

19. (new) Composition according to claim 2 wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein has an isoelectric point of from at least 4 to at most 7.

20. (new) Composition according to claim 2 wherein the number of negatively charged aminoacid residues at pH 8 in the recombinant gelatin-like protein, minus the number of positively charged amino acid residues at pH 8 in the recombinant gelatin-like protein is at least 2, preferably at least 3.

21. (new) Composition according to claim 2 wherein said recombinant gelatin-like protein is a human gelatin-like protein.

22. (new) Composition according to claim 2 wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein with an isoelectric point of less than 8 is obtained by replacement of glutamine by glutamic acid and/or replacement of asparagine by aspartic acid.

23. (new) Composition according to claim 2 wherein said recombinant gelatin-like protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 4.

24. (new) The process according to claim 10 wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein has a molecular weight of from at least 15,000 Daltons to at most 25,000 Daltons.

25. (new) The process according to claim 10 wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein has an isoelectric point of from at least 4 to at most 7.

26. (new) The process according to claim 10 wherein the number of negatively charged amino acid residues at pH 8 in the recombinant gelatin-like protein minus the number of positively charged amino acid residues at pH 8 in the recombinant gelatin-like protein is at least 2, optionally at least 3.

27. (new) The process according to claim 10 wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein is a human gelatin-like protein.

28. (new) The process according to claim 10 wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 4.

29. The process according to claim 9 in which the recombinant gelatin-like protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 3.

30. The process according to claim 10 in which the recombinant gelatin-like protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 3.